

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT FUNDING**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues to introduce a resolution calling on the President and Congress to fully fund the federal government's obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, commonly known as P.L. 94-142. The Act built upon previous legislation to mandate that all States provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all disabled children by 1978. It also established the federal commitment to provide funding aid at 40% of the average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities. Historically, however, the appropriations for IDEA have not come close to reaching the 40% level. Federal funding has never risen above 12% of the cost. As a result, local schools and States are picking up the tab for an additional 28% above their fair share of special education costs.

As a former Governor, I have a unique understanding of special education funding and the tremendous burden this unfunded mandate places on schools. Local school districts spend on average 20 percent of their budgets on special education. Put simply, local schools are expected to pay much more than their fair share. This needs to change. If the federal government fulfilled its special education obligation for local schools, Washington would not have to step in to address issues such as class size reduction and building new school buildings. These decisions could be left up to local school districts who better understand the dynamics and needs of their students. This is precisely why the federal government must fulfill the commitment it made in 1975.

In Delaware, for instance, our largest school district, the Christina School District, currently receives \$800,000 per year in special education funding. The federal commitment is to pay Christina School District \$4.4 million. This means that if we fulfilled our commitment, Christina School District would have an additional \$3.3 million to focus on the needs of their students and teachers. The entire State of Delaware, if special education were fully funded, would receive an additional \$24.8 million. This is a tremendous amount of money, that is desperately needed by local schools in order to reduce class size, build and modernize schools, and implement technology into education. If the federal government fulfills its commitment to fund 40% of special education costs, States and schools across the nation would have the opportunity to focus their funds on the unique and individualized needs of their schools.

The Republican Congress has worked to increase special education funding. Since 1995, IDEA funding has increased by over 85%. This is an increase of approximately \$1.4 billion. Congress now needs to garner the support of the President and the Administration to make IDEA funding a priority for our nation's schools.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contribution women have made to the economy. As a Member of the Small Business Committee and life-long Long Islander, the issue of small business is an important one to me.

As we approach the new millennium, an increasing number of women are starting their own businesses. According to the National Foundation of Women's Business Owners, as of 1997 there were 8.5 million women-owned businesses in the United States employing over 23 million people and generating close to 3.1 trillion in sales as of 1997. Between 1987 and 1997, the number of women-owned firms increased by 89% nationwide, and as of 1996 women-owned businesses accounted for 36% of all firms in the United States.

Knowing how important small businesses are to our economy, I hope we will continue supporting the collection of data on women owned businesses as a regular part of the economic census of business. The knowledge such data provides is truly priceless, and I want to ensure it remains fully funded every year. Thousands of remarkable women have made significant advances for our economy, and they deserve nothing less than our full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday returning from my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following three roll call votes: No. 78 on H. Res. 135 regarding amendments to H.R. 98, Aviation War Risk Insurance Program Extension; No. 79 on H.R. 911, to designate the new Federal Building in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building"; and No. 80 on H. Con. Res. 68, instructing conferees on the FY 2000 budget to protect Social Security and Medicare.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON'S CORNER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in Larimer County, Colorado, there is a family-owned business, Johnson's Corner, which has been named as one of the top ten best places in the world to eat breakfast, and was the only United States restaurant to be named. Founded by Joe Johnson in 1953 along Interstate 25 before it was an interstate, it is now run by his widow, Virginia, and stepson, Chauncey Taylor.

What distinguishes Johnson's Corner from all the rest? According to Travel & Leisure magazine, it's the restaurant's cinnamon rolls. Today, I wish to confirm that the "World Famous Cinnamon Rolls" are the best and deserve recognition as does the restaurant business itself.

A way station for travelers driving the interstate highway, this old-fashioned, 24-hour truck stop lit up with neon signs, serves up cinnamon rolls and other good food on formica-topped tables in a family atmosphere. The nearly 50-year old business maintains a great deal of pride in its service to a clientele of farmers, truckers, cowboys, bikers, and tourists. In addition, its location and hospitality have proven to be a good place for Members of Congress and other elected officials to hold town meetings.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor the Johnson family and their employees at Johnson's Corner. I hold them up to the House and to all Americans, as a fine example of the best of America's businesses. They exemplify the industrious spirit and can-do attitude that have made America great.

CONGRATULATING THE SIKH NATION
ON ITS 300th BAISAKHI DAY
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE
SIKHS**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, the Sikh Nation will celebrate its 300th Baisakhi Day. This is a major milestone for the Sikhs of America and the world, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this occasion.

More than 40,000 Sikhs came to Washington, D.C. this past weekend to celebrate with a march organized by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, who is a friend of many of ours. The march was a huge success, and I would like to congratulate Dr. Aulakh and everyone who was involved in this very successful event. Through their hard work one of the largest groups that Washington has seen in a long time showed up to celebrate the Sikh heritage and declare the need for a free and independent Khalistan.

There are about 500,000 Sikhs in the United States. They are part of a vibrant 22-million strong Sikh community around the world. They have added to America in many different fields of endeavor. Here the Sikhs live in freedom and prosperity. Yet in their homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, they suffer under the brutal tyranny of the Indian government. Under this brutal policy, the Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Thousands more are held in Indian jails, most without charge or trial.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion. It is not part of any other religion, though it does have some beliefs that are also held by other religions. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs have been victims of the Hindu extremists who dominate Indian life. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs are religiously and culturally distinct from Hindu India.

The Sikhs have a heritage of self-rule. They ruled Punjab independently from 1765 to

1849. No representative of the Sikh people has ever signed the constitution of India, 51 years after India became independent. In October 1987, Khalistan declared itself independent from India, much as we declared our own independence in 1776. They created the Council of Khalistan, headed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, to serve as the government pro tempore and lead the peaceful struggle for independence.

What we know as India never existed before the British created it. Prior to the British conquest of South Asia, the region had many countries which ruled themselves. Just as the Soviet Union's multiethnic empire collapsed, so must India's. It is inevitable. Given India's nuclear weapons and missile development, the world must remain alert to make certain that South Asia does not become another Balkan Peninsula full of Bosnias and Kosovos. The best way to do that is to work for peaceful solutions to the region's ethnic and religious violence.

In previous Congresses, I have sponsored a resolution calling for a free and fair plebiscite under international supervision to achieve a peaceful solution to the issue of independence for Khalistan. I urge the same also for Kashmir, where it was promised by India in 1947, for Nagaland, and for all the states and regions where there are independence movements. This is the democratic way to settle these issues, and India claims to be a democracy. Let the world see Indian democracy in action by scheduling these plebiscites now. If it is good enough for the people of Puerto Rico and Quebec, it is good enough for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the rest of South Asia.

In addition to calling for a plebiscite, we should end U.S. aid to India until basic human rights can be freely exercised by all people under India's rule and we should declare India a violator of religious liberty for the killings of Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and others, then impose the sanctions that this status brings. If the situation changes, the sanctions can and should be lifted.

Congratulations again to the Sikhs on their 300th anniversary. May this occasion mark not just an anniversary, but a new birth of freedom in South Asia.

REPORT FROM MUNCIE, INDIANA— HOOSIER HEROES

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes".

There is a genuine Hoosier Hero in Muncie, Indiana. He is Craig Miller, who I am proud to say is a constituent of mine and has made our community a better place to live.

Craig has made Muncie a better place through his voluntary efforts. He is on the Board of the Indiana Red Cross; in fact, he spent so much time on others needs, they made him, "Volunteer of the Year for 1997", because of his efforts on behalf of the less fortunate. Craig also serves on the Board of the Boys' and Girls' Club in Muncie.

His work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. Craig doesn't do it for the pay which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good work for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Craig Miller deserves the gratitude of his city, state, and nation and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SHERLLYNN RUSSO

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a special person, Ms. Sherlynn Russo. This evening she is being honored as one of the Clinton Township Goodfellows of the Year recipients for 1997–1998 by community members and friends.

The members of the Clinton Township Goodfellows have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of the community for many years. Their goal is to aid the public in ways that other charities and the government could not. For the past five years, Sherlynn has served in various Board positions for the Goodfellows. She has done particularly commendable work on behalf of children. She has co-chaired the Christmas Toy Committee for the past two years providing joy to many children who otherwise might not have had a merry Christmas.

Sherlynn is employed by the General Motors Corporation as a Communications Manager, but still finds the time to volunteer in many community organizations. She is an Executive Advisor for Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan, the President of the Board of Directors of her home owners association and Financial Secretary for the G.M. Women's Club.

The Clinton Township Goodfellows know that they can count on Sherlynn as they honor her this evening. I would like to congratulate Sherlynn Russo as she celebrates this auspicious occasion with family and friends.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
KOESTER CORPORATION FOR ITS
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO
THE DEFIANCE COMMUNITY FOR
THE PAST THIRTY YEARS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to a remarkable, community-minded organization from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District—the Koester Corporation.

In 1970, guided by an unwavering commitment to quality and entrepreneurial spirit, William C. Koester founded the Koester Corporation. For the past thirty years, the Koester Corporation has been an integral part of the Defiance community, and has been a key player in the manufacturing industry in Northwest Ohio and around the world.

Through Mr. Koester's innovation and determination, the Koester Corporation has grown from the small firm of three employees he started in the early 1970's, to an industrial heavyweight with approximately sixty employees, conducting its business both domestically and in the international marketplace. Throughout its success, the Koester Corporation has maintained its presence and headquarters in Defiance for almost thirty years.

Mr. Speaker, the true greatness of American productivity and manufacturing prowess is evident from the unique history of the Koester Corporation. With great expectations and more than a little hard work, William Koester has transformed his vision into a highly successful manufacturing and process control business. With the combination of his vision and the dedication and talents of the employees at the Koester Corporation, the recipe for success is written. At the same time, Mr. Koester has maintained his commitment to the local community and has strived to succeed as a good community partner, as well.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the outstanding contributions of her citizens. In the case of William C. Koester and the Koester Corporation, I think that adage is very appropriate. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Koester Corporation. For its thirty years of service to business, industry, and the Defiance area, we offer our sincere gratitude and our best wishes for the future.

RECOGNITION OF SPEECH BY STUDENT GOVERNOR REBECCA
DESISETS UXBRIDGE HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the superb speech delivered by Rebecca Desilets, a Senior at Uxbridge High School. Ms. Desilets was elected Student Governor for the 1999 Massachusetts Student Government Day. For the past 52 years, the high schools